

MEMORANDUM FOR Members, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council (3 December 2003)

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program, the Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree council met 3 December 2003, 7:00 p.m., Last Frontier Club. Vice-Chairperson Troy Stoneking called the meeting to order.

2. Present:

Doris C. Mercer	Mary Alice Jackson
Dennis Goldbach	Lynne Goldbach
Troy Stoneking	Lisa Stoneking
Marge Hilcoske	Beth King
David King	
Colonel Pricilla H. Hamilton, DENTAC Commander	
Colonel William Gamble, MEDDAC Commander	
LTC David Brown, Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander	
Gail Scarborough, RSO	

3. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made.

4. Minutes: Approved as written.

5. Committee Reports: Legislative Committee-Troy reported the FY04 NDAA provides monies for a phase-in of concurrent receipt for the severely disabled. Starting in January 2004, retirees with a 50% or greater disability rating from the VA will begin to see a phase-in of Concurrent Receipt. The phase-in period is 10 years and will begin with a fixed amount in January 2004 with increases each year of 10% of the remaining difference. Full concurrent receipt will be received beginning in 2013. Also, the Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Program was expanded to include all disability ratings when associated with combat, simulation of war, hazardous duty. No application is required for concurrent receipt; payments will begin with the February 2 retired pay. (Some delays may be experienced, however payments will be retroactive.) CRSC does require the retiree apply for the program. Bills are pending before Congressional committees to improve the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments for spouses of deceased retirees. These changes/improvements are contained in H.R. 36, S.249, H.R. 886, H.R. 548, S. 451, S.401, and H.R. 1653. Also, work continues on the Keeping Our Promise (H.R. 58).

APVR-AG-RS

Subject: Minutes of Meeting, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council (3 December 2003)

6. Old Business:

a. Retiree Appreciation Day: Gail asked for suggestions for dates and activities. Suggestions included scheduling for the last Saturday in April, information on TriCare for Life and a Stryker Vehicle Demonstration.

b. Issues for DA Chief of Staff Retiree Council: No issues to forward.

7. New Business:

a. AAFES/Commissary: Several Council members expressed concern with the discrepancies between items available for purchase at the Joint Regional Mall located on Elmendorf AFB and the Commissary/PX located on Fort Wainwright. LTC Brown stated the size of the store and storage availability affects the types of items stocked. He urged members to shop and show support for the Commissary and PX. He also suggested having the AAFES and Commissary Managers attend a future meeting to provide information.

b. Allotment for TriCare Prime: Question was raised regarding paying for TriCare Prime by allotment. In the past, this was not an option. Colonel Gamble will check on status of this issue.

c. Suggestion was made to move the Council meetings to the first Monday night of the month in order to participate in Spaghetti Night at the Club. Motion was made to change date of meetings starting in February. Motion was approved. Effective 2 February, meetings will be held the first Monday night of the month.

8. Announcements: Fort Wainwright Holiday Party and Tree Lighting, 5 December, 5:30 p.m., Fitness Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

10. Next Meeting: 7 January 2004, 7:00 p.m., Last Frontier Club.

TROY STONEKING
Vice-Chairperson

I have reviewed these minutes.

Gail Scarborough
RSO